



OLR RESEARCH REPORT

February 1, 2013

2013-R-0114

QUESTIONS FOR CONNECTICUT MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD NOMINEE - PUBLIC MEMBER

By: Nicole Dube, Associate Analyst

CONNECTICUT MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD ([CGS § 20-8a](#))

The board, which is within the Department of Public Health (DPH), must (1) hear and decide matters concerning suspension or revocation of a practitioner's license, (2) adjudicate complaints against practitioners, and (3) impose sanctions where appropriate. The board must refer all statements of charges filed with the board by DPH to a medical hearing panel within 60 days of receiving the charges. The board then reviews the proposed final decisions of the medical hearing panels. It may adopt, modify, or remand the decisions for further review or the taking of additional evidence.

QUESTIONS

1. What do you consider the primary role and function of the Medical Examining Board? Is the board's primary responsibility to the medical community or health care consumers?
2. The board is sometimes criticized as having an antiquated model. Do you believe that the board, as currently structured, funded, and administered, is able to meet its statutory duties?
3. How do you view the relationship between the board and the DPH? Do you see any need for changes in this relationship?
4. The board is sometimes criticized for failing to discipline physicians in a timely and appropriate manner. For the past 10 years, Connecticut has ranked lower than most other states in its rate of physician discipline. How do you react to this? What should be the board's approach in its oversight and review of physician performance?
5. What role can the board play in minimizing medical error and improving the overall quality of health care delivery in the state? Do you believe electronic medical records may help in this regard?
6. What particular expertise do you bring to the medical examining board?
7. 2012 legislation ([PA 12-62](#)) increased the board's size from 15 to 21 members, including seven public members. How do you think this change will impact the board's ability to meet its statutory duties?
8. As a consumer, rather than a practitioner of health care, do you bring a different perspective to the possible disciplining of a physician?

ND: car/tjo